

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and,

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Times has recently reported that more than 1,000 old concrete buildings within the City of Los Angeles may be at risk of structural failure in the event of a major earthquake; and,

WHEREAS, of these buildings, it is estimated that as many as 50 may be destroyed in the event of a major earthquake resulting in injury or death to thousands; and,

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Times analysis states that many older concrete buildings are vulnerable to the sideways motion created by a major earthquake because the concrete columns do not contain sufficient steel reinforcement to keep them from moving; and,

WHEREAS, recent earthquakes have shown the deadly potential of concrete buildings where in 2011, an earthquake in New Zealand toppled two concrete office towers, killing 133; further, many of those killed in the Kobe, Japan quakes of 1995 were in concrete structures; and,

WHEREAS, the 1971 Sylmar earthquake destroyed several concrete structures, killing 52; the 1994 Northridge earthquake significantly damaged a Bullock's department store and a Kaiser medical office; and,

WHEREAS, seismologists have stated that a bigger quake is overdue and researchers advise that an estimated 5% of concrete structures fail during an earthquake; and,

WHEREAS, the City should seek the passage of a State Bond Measure to assist local governments in the implementation of seismic safety improvements, especially for older concrete structures,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 State Legislative Program support or sponsorship of any legislation seeking voter approval of a State ballot measure, at the next statewide election, to provide funding to localities for earthquake safety improvements, including efforts to improve the structural safety of old concrete structures.

PRESENTED BY:


TOM LABONGE

Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:

